ZOE KRAVITZ WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING

WHY THE "GOOD KILL" ACTRESS CALLS HERSELF A TRIPLE THREAT. PAGE 15

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Quest for knowledge

Education. Home-schooled kids were recently in an "Amazing Race"-inspired quest to stop a zombie apocalypse — but they also learned how to travel around the city. PAGE 02

Milan Marvelous, dressed as William Hogg, gives instructions to students in an "Amazing Race"-style adventure in Laurel Hill Cemetery. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Amtrak will add cab cameras to trains

PAGE 04

Plant tips to pretty up your living space

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Will red-hot Howard be Phils' lone All-Star?

PAGE 21

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1 NEWS

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Kids learn to use SEPTA while fighting 'zombies'

Learning. A group of local home-schooling parents sent their kids around the city on a treasure hunt to teach them how to travel alone.

Dressed in a 19th-century soldier's coat, Milan Marvelous stood in Laurel Hill Cemetery and advised a group of enterprising youngsters on how to find a cure for a zombie disease overtaking Philadelphia.

"Why don't we cure people instead of killing them?" Marvelous' character, an undead zombie fighter, asked the kids, who were participating in a "zombie apocalypse"-themed treasure hunt around the city. "Having been dead for 112 years, I've had a lot of time on my hands to get things just right!"

In the treasure hunt, which was held on May 11, Marvelous' character then gave kids a list of ingredients they had to track down. It was one of many stops on a journey that took kids from Fencing Academy of Philly to Chinatown to the Mutter Museum to Eastern State Penitentiary.

Marvelous, of West Philadelphia, said the assignment was designed to educate kids about how to transport themselves around the city using SEPTA and other modes of transit.

Quoted

"We try to find ways to make them more independent. ... It increases the resources they have."

Marvelous

"One of the challenges of home-schooling kids is to try and give them the experiences that kids going to school are always receiving," Marvelous said. "My wife and I wanted to give the teens an opportunity to learn how to better navigate SEPTA."

Seventeen teens participated in the roughly seven-hour adventure, with eight adults positioned at various destinations to give kids clues as to their next destination.

They relied in part on the SEPTA trip planner app, Marvelous said, which kids used to figure out which bus to take and how to transfer between various lines.

Robert Kunzman, an Indiana University education professor who specializes in home schooling, said the Amazing Race-style event is a great way to expand kids' borders.

"Education certainly doesn't always need to take place in a school building, and I can think of many valuable — and engaging — lessons that could be learned from such an adventure," Kunzman said.

The zombie theme was a way "to justify the destinations and get the kids excited for their next stop," Marvelous said. He wanted to give kids the experience of, "Oh man, I thought this kind of thing only happened in books! This is real life!"

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Splish splash, they were taking a bath

South Philly youngsters Ryan, left, Kaitlyn, center, and Drew, ages 8 and 6, took to a kiddie pool to cool off as temperatures reached over 90 degrees on Tuesday. Forecasters say temps will remain in the upper 80s through the rest of the week, but they also predict rain and thunderstorms every day until Saturday — and more rain daily until June 4. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Police seek suspect in two rapes

A sketch of the March suspect / PPD

The man who sexually assaulted a 35-year-old woman in her home on the 1800 block of South Rosewood Street on Monday may also be behind another sexual assault in the area, police said Tuesday.

The latest victim, 35, was awoken at 4:30 a.m. by the suspect standing over her bed. He placed his hand over her mouth, demanded cash and took $10 before sexually assaulting her, police say. He also took her house keys and her roommate's ID when he left.

Police believe the suspect may be behind a March 26 rape just blocks away on the 1700 block of Chadwick Street. In both cases, the suspect is described as wearing red gloves.

Police say the suspect is a black male about 5-feet9, with a medium build, in his 20s to 30s.

SAM NEWHOUSE

University City

Two execs charged with stealing $3M from hotel

Two executives at a hotel owned by the University of Pennsylvania face federal charges in what prosecutors say was a $3 million fraud.

Kenneth Kapikian, 57, the general manager of the Sheraton University City Hotel, and Dennis Gagliardi, 63, the hotel's chief engineer, accepted kickbacks from contractors in exchange for accepting invoices that were inflated by as much as 20 percent, according to court documents.

Kapikian and Gagliardi accepted roughly $709,000 in kickbacks working on interior design, information technology and interior design, documents say.

The pair also owned a washing machine company that submitted 49 fraudulent invoices worth $2.3 million to the hotel. Federal authorities say the company performed no work.

If convicted, the men face up to 160 years in prison.

DAN KELLEY

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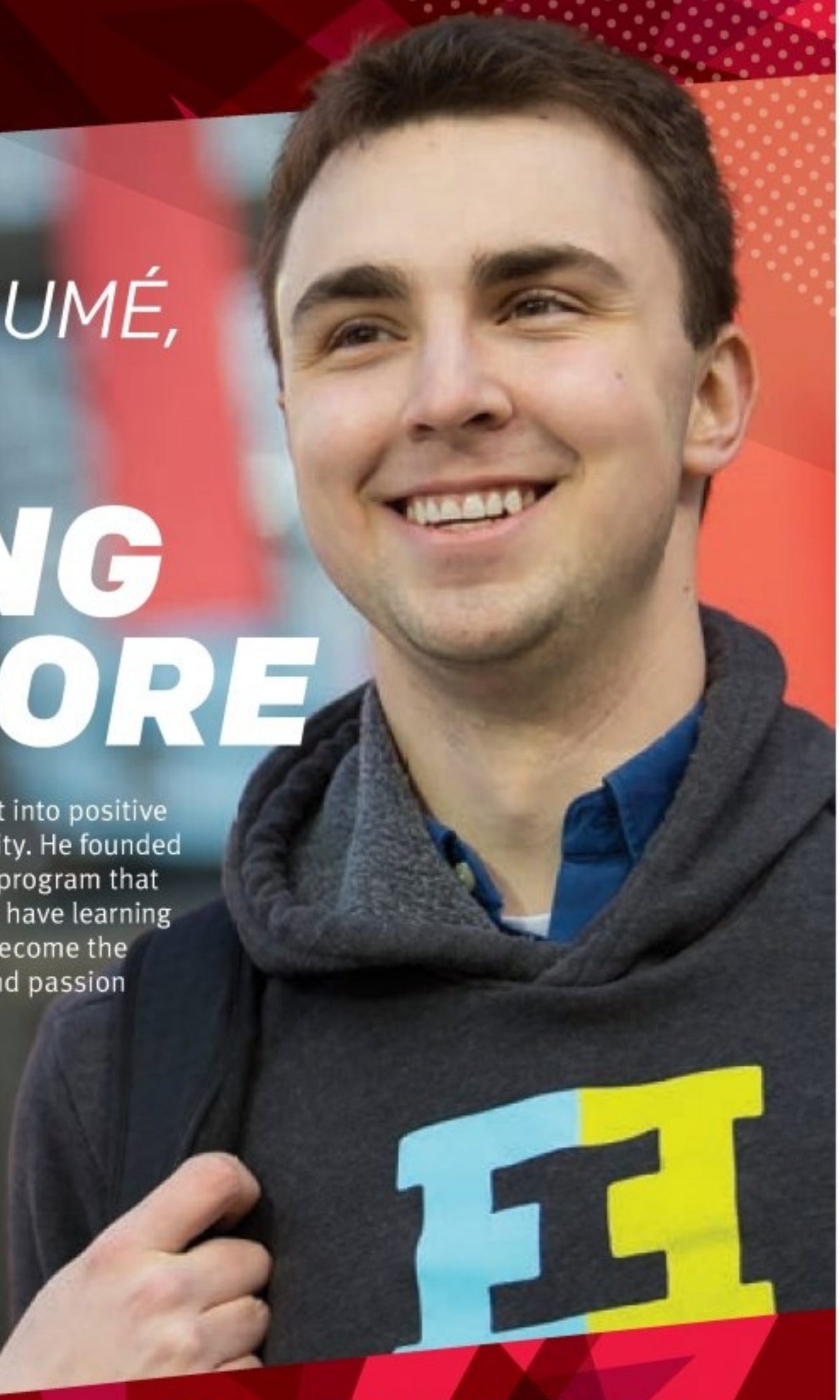

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Skimmers

Feds hunt for 3 in ATM scam

The FBI released photos of three men they say installed "skimming" devices on ATMs in stores in the Shippensburg and Carlisle areas.

The devices were placed on the ATMs when the stores were open but the banks were closed.

Skimming devices allow criminals to clone debit and credit cards.

The cloned cards were used to withdraw money from ATMs in and around Philadelphia. DAN KELLEY

The FBI says this suspect placed skimmers on ATMs. / FBI

Amtrak to install cameras to monitor train engineers

Safety. Amtrak was ordered to increase safety after a train derailed in Port Richmond.

Amtrak CEO Joseph Boardman speaks about the derailment on May 14 with Mayor Michael Nutter and Gov. Tom Wolf. / GETTY IMAGES

Amtrak plans to install video cameras to monitor the engineers of locomotives on its heavily traveled routes in the northeastern United States following a deadly derailment, the nation's largest passenger rail service said on Tuesday.

The move to add cockpit cameras in trains on the Northeast Corridor line by year's end follows a derailment outside Philadelphia that killed eight people and injured about 200.

"Inward-facing video cameras will help improve safety and serve as a valuable investigative tool," Amtrak Chief Executive Joe Boardman said in a statement.

The cameras will be installed in 70 locomotives that power trains on the Washington-to-Boston northeast line, as well as service between New York, Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa.

Amtrak is still looking into ways to install cameras in the high-speed locomotives that power its Acela express line through the region and on diesel-powered locomotives.

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut, which is served by Amtrak, praised the move but called on federal regulators to mandate similar cameras on all U.S. rail locomotives.

"Inward-facing cameras, with the right privacy protections for employees, are a critical way to make our railroads safer," Blumenthal said. "Cameras improve accident investigations, deter unsafe behavior, and detect compliance with safety laws, which is why I have urged their installation as soon as possible." REUTERS

FRA

The Federal Railroad Administration last week ordered Amtrak to take immediate steps to improve the safety of its busiest route, including identifying dangerous curves along the Northeast Corridor where slower speeds could reduce the risk of mishap.

Amtrak #188

The investigation continues

The northbound train accelerated to 106 mph from 70 mph in a 50-mph speed limit zone in the minute before the crash on May 12.

Investigators have not yet concluded why the train sped up so dramatically but are looking into possibilities that include equipment malfunction or human error, and are analyzing the engineer's cell phone records.

Amtrak engineers are required to turn off their phones when behind the controls.

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Guilty plea for man who killed wife, reported her missing

Northeast. Connie Murray's body was found in Pennypack Park, where she had gone to jog.

Christopher Murray / PPD

The Northeast Philly man accused of killing his wife then reporting her missing in an attempt to cover up the crime pleaded guilty to murder Tuesday.

Christopher Murray, 48, will face 20 to 40 years in prison to avoid a trial at which, if he was found guilty, he could have been sentenced to life.

Murray confessed to strangling 46-year-old Connie Murray in August 2014 after police pressed him over aspects of his story that didn't add up.

Connie Murray's body was found behind two benches by a woman walking her dog on the 3000 block of Holme Avenue, in Pennypack Park on Aug. 6.

She had gone to the park to jog at around 9 p.m. on Aug. 5.

Christopher Murray reported her missing at 2 a.m.

After his wife went missing, Christopher began checking with police stations and hospitals, rather than with friends, neighbors or family members, which raised a red flag to detectives, who referred to the behavior as the "concerned husband show."

Surveillance video showed Connie outside Pennypack Park when a silver Ford Taurus matching the description of Christopher's car pulled up alongside her.

She popped her head in the window briefly before walking away from the car.

Police believe the couple argued inside the park. Investigators say the couple had been experiencing ongoing domestic discord.

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Storms kill 10 in Texas, Oklahoma; Houston flooded

Recovery. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster in 24 Texas counties.

Torrential rains have killed at least 10 people in Texas and Oklahoma, including two in Houston where floods turned streets into rivers and led to about 1,000 calls for help in the fourth-most populous U.S. city, officials said.

The death toll is set to rise with numerous people missing in Texas after the storms slammed the states during the Memorial Day weekend, causing record floods that destroyed hundreds of homes and swept away bridges.

"There are still some significant areas of really devastating flooding in Houston," Mayor Annise Parker said at a news conference, adding most of Houston is high and dry but advised people to stay home.

The Houston Fire Department brought about 500 people to safety in boats, local media reports said.

President Barack Obama said on Tuesday he had assured Texas Gov. Greg Abbott that he could count on help from the federal government as the state recovers from the floods.

Abbott said he has deployed the state's National Guard and was worried the death toll could rise.

"We still have countless people who are missing," he told cable news station CNN.

Twelve people are confirmed missing and about another 30 are unaccounted for due to flooding that hit along the Blanco River in central Texas, county officials said. The missing were from two families whose vacation home was swept off its foundation in Wimberley, a town about 30 miles southwest of Austin.

Search dogs and boats were being used to search for the missing. The river rose so quickly and with such force that it caused a flood gauge to break, Hayes County officials said.

One of those killed was an 18-year-old girl whose car was swept away by flood waters as she returned home from her high school prom, police in Devine, Texas, south of San Antonio, said. **REUTERS**

Vehicles

1K

More than 1,000 vehicles were submerged in the Houston floods.

Many vehicles were left stranded on Interstate 45 in Houston. / GETTY IMAGES

NBA playoffs

Fans stranded after game

Fans were stranded for seven hours after a Houston Rockets playoff game because of dangerous floods outside.

Just before the end of the Rockets' win over the Golden State Warriors in Monday's NBA Western Conference finals, a message on the scoreboard told fans to stay put. The team tweeted: "Toyota Center is advising fans to stay in seats after game due to severe weather outside. Be safe."

Some left, but hundreds chose not to take the risk, according to NBC affiliate KPRC. Those who played it safe got a surprise visit from Rockets center Dwight Howard, who told the Houston Chronicle that he wasn't going to take his chances on the roads, either.

Arena staff provided their unexpected overnight guests with coffee, bagels, cinnamon rolls and places to charge their phones. **METRO**

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Civil rights

Justice Dept. investigates cops

The U.S. Justice Department is investigating the use of force by Baltimore police and potential civil rights violations in the 3,200-member department.

The American Civil Liberties Union said in a report in March that at least 109 people in Maryland had died in police-related killings from 2009 to 2014. Seventy percent of the victims were black.

State Senator Catherine Pugh said her group, formed this month to study police issues, could start hearings in June to consider increasing economic opportunities for ex-convicts, job rotation for officers and other reforms. Maryland's next legislative session starts in January.

The Maryland Fraternal Order of Police, which opposed several initiatives in the last session, is eager to work with Pugh's group, said union lobbyist Frank Boston.

FOP opposition helped scuttle more than 12 bills in the last session, including measures to mandate state prosecutors investigate all killings by police officers and to add a civilian review process. REUTERS

Quoted

"We think that the work group itself is balanced and we're looking forward to constructive dialogue and dealing with the aftermath of the Freddie Gray situation." Boston

Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts. / GETTY IMAGES

Maryland lawmakers take up police reform

Liberal US state. Maryland is the latest to grapple with reforms after the death of Freddie Gray.

Baltimore rioting over the death of a black man from injuries in police custody is spurring Maryland lawmakers to take action on criminal justice reform after legislation stalled in the statehouse.

Legislators hope that the death of Freddie Gray, 25, can galvanize the Democratic-controlled state Assembly after bids for reforms, especially one that would alter a state law giving police special rights, went nowhere in the last legislative session.

"Unfortunately for Freddie Gray, he becomes symbolic of similar type of issues facing police departments across the nation," said state Senator Catherine Pugh, co-chair of a 20-member bipartisan working group appointed this month to study police issues.

South Carolina recently passed legislation approving body cameras for all police and California's state senate has approved a bill barring prosecutors from convening secret grand juries to investigate claims of police brutality. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, and Ohio's John Kasich, a Republican, have also called for reviews of police use of force.

The protests in Maryland following Gray's death last month increased the sense of urgency for action there, said Pugh, who is also the senate majority leader.

Underscoring the challenge police face in Baltimore, the city has recorded 107 homicides this year as of Monday, up from 74 at the same time last year. Although police did not provide a total number of murders since Gray's death on April 19, the Baltimore Sun said there had been 47 killings in that period. REUTERS

Quoted

"The problem of policing is not just a Baltimore problem, not just a Maryland problem, but it's a nationwide problem."

Pugh, who represents the impoverished neighborhood where Freddie Gray lived.

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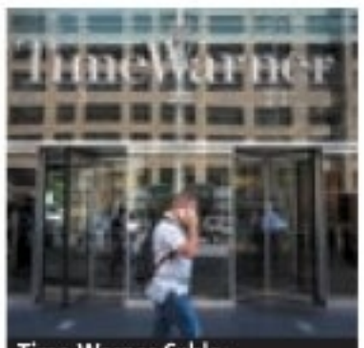
Charter buying Time Warner Cable

The offer. Cable operator Charter to buy Time Warner Cable for $56 billion.



Time Warner Cable headquarters in New York Cit. / GETTY IMAGES

Charter Communications, the No. 3 cable TV operator, offered to buy No. 2 Time Warner Cable for $56 billion on Tuesday, but immediately ran into questions about whether regulators would agree to the combined company, which would control a big swath of the cable and Internet markets.

The union of the two companies would compete against cable market leader Comcast, confront the increased popularity of streaming services and mark a huge step toward industry consolidation, long advocated by cable pioneer John Malone, Charter's biggest shareholder.

The merger partners, which promised better access to broadband Internet for consumers, faster speeds and more public WiFi networks, nonetheless could face regulatory obstacles that helped sink Comcast Corp.'s earlier bid for Time Warner Cable.

Previous offer

$37B

Charter's current bid is much higher than its first offer of $37 billion, which Time Warner Cable rejected last year.

The Federal Communications Commission was unusually quick to comment, saying early Tuesday it would closely review the deal's merits. The agency determines whether mergers are in the public interest.

"The Commission will look to see how American consumers would benefit if the deal were to be approved," FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said in a statement.

Charter, 26 percent owned by Liberty Broadband Corp., offered about $195.71 in cash and stock for each Time Warner Cable share, based on Charter's closing price on May 20.

Including debt, the deal values Time Warner Cable at $78.7 billion, making it the sixth-largest U.S. deal on record, according to Thomson Reuters data. REUTERS

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

Five things you need to know

1 Homicide probe to be launched into B.B. King's death

Nevada officials said on Monday they would conduct a homicide investigation into the death of B.B. King, who died this month at age 89, after two of his daughters leveled accusations that the blues great was murdered.

The Clark County, Nevada, coroner's office said in a posting on Twitter that it had taken jurisdiction over King's body, and that autopsy results would take a minimum of six to eight weeks.

"Our coroner takes jurisdiction over #BBKing body, performs autopsy. Results: 6-8 wks min," it said, adding that a homicide investigation would be conducted along with the Las Vegas police department.

Two of King's children, Karen Williams and Patty King, alleged that King was poisoned, ostensibly by two of his longtime associates including one who had power of attorney over his affairs, the Associated Press reported.

"I believe my father was poisoned and that he was administered foreign substances. I believe my father was murdered," each woman said in statements contained in documents submitted to the *AP* by their lawyer.

An attorney for King's estate called the allegations unfounded and disrespectful, AP said. REUTERS

2 Washington Post reporter goes on trial in Tehran

Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian went on trial on espionage charges behind closed doors in Tehran on Tuesday, 10 months after he was arrested at his home and imprisoned, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

His wife, Yeganeh Salehi, and a woman described as a photojournalist also went on trial, the official IRNA news agency said. Both women were detained with him in July but later released.

The three, all American-Iranian, were in court for around two hours before the session was adjourned, IRNA added. REUTERS

3 Authorities probe threats to flights

U.S. government agencies are investigating at least 11 threats against specific international commercial flights on Monday afternoon, apparently phoned in to police by the same person, U.S. officials said.

Threats were made to flights both to and from U.S. airports, including New York, Newark and Atlanta, as well as flights between foreign cities in Europe, North and South America, and the Middle East, one official said.

Officials said they believed all of the threats were phoned in to local police departments by the same individual. REUTERS

4 Connecticut police probe apparent stabbing, suicide near Yale University

A 21-year-old Yale University student stabbed an acquaintance early on Tuesday and then jumped from the ninth floor of an apartment building near the campus, killing himself, police in Connecticut said.

Both people involved were students at the Ivy League university, New Haven Police spokesman David Hartman said, adding that authorities are still investigating the incident.

The stabbing victim was taken to Yale-New Haven Hospital and is listed in stable condition, police said. REUTERS

5 Court rules with states challenging immigration action

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on Tuesday in favor of 26 states challenging President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration, potentially paving the way for a Supreme Court decision on the issue.

Two judges on the three-judge panel ruled that the executive action, which would grant an estimated 4.7 million undocumented immigrants relief from deportation, should remain on hold while the government appeals its blocking. REUTERS

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THE HARSH TRUTH ABOUT INVESTING IN THE S&P 500

If you have a while remaining before retirement, I can easily predict the advice you'll receive from almost any financial expert: Invest in an S&P 500 indexed mutual fund.

The reasons all sound good:

"These are the biggest companies in America … they're not going anywhere!"

"Warren Buffett recommended the S&P 500 for individual investors!"

"The S&P 500 has doubled in the last few years!"

The harsh reality is that advice is truly awful. Let's do something your advisor might gloss over: Let's look at the facts.

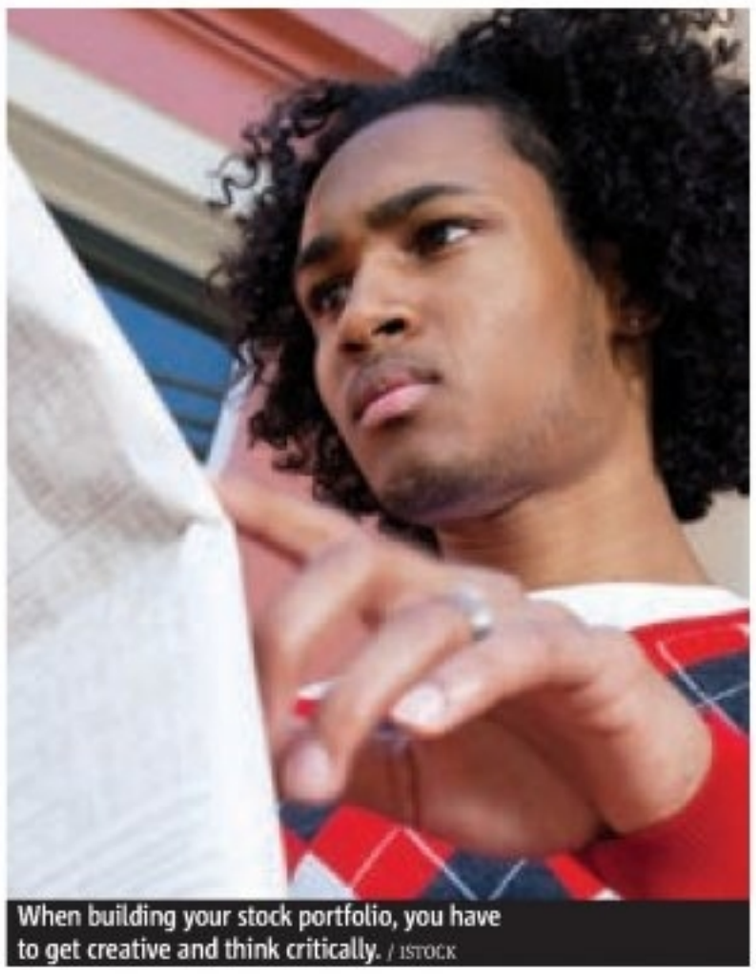
Let's assume that you have 25 years until retirement. What will the S&P 500 do in the next 25 years? The best guess comes by looking at what the S&P 500 has done for the past 25 years. The S&P 500 has a rather paltry compounded annual growth rate of 7.7 percent during the past 25 years. Factor in taxes and expenses, and it drops to about 7 percent.

But it gets worse. The S&P hasn't gone up in a straight line. The volatility is downright terrifying. Ask yourself this question, honestly: "If my investment portfolio was cut in half over a short period of time, would I be able to continue to 'hold on' to that investment long term?"

Well, guess what: That's happened twice in the S&P 500 in the past 25 years, once starting in 2000 and another time starting in 2007.

Respectfully, I submit that you'd do what most investors do: Near the bottom of the decline, you'd finally reach the point of having "had enough," and you'd liquidate. Then when the market starts to scream upward again, you'd give it 12 to 24 months just to watch and see what happens, and as a result, you'd miss most of the growth in the market.

Your 7 percent rate of return just got cut in half, to 3.5 percent. Before buying in to what your adviser is selling, do some critical thinking. You never know when "conventional wisdom" can be dangerous for your portfolio.


When building your stock portfolio, you have to get creative and think critically. / iStock

Brutal honesty for investors

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1

Johnny Depp's Down Under dog troubles

Johnny Depp is back in the U.S. this week after getting into hot water in Australia for smuggling his two pet Yorkshire terriers into the country on his private plane, violating quarantine laws. But authorities in the lower hemisphere aren't done with him just yet. If the case goes to court and Depp is found guilty, he could face up to 10 years in prison and a $265,000 fine, according to the Sydney Morning Herald. "If we start letting movie stars — even though they've been the Sexiest Man Alive twice — come into our nation [and break the laws], then why don't we just break the laws for everybody?" Australian Minister of Agriculture Barnaby Joyce says. And you know what? He raises some very good questions, but is he suggesting that Australia isn't already a completely lawless, anarchic free-for-all? Because if so, I've been sorely misled. Also, shouldn't Depp have those Sexiest Man Alive titles stripped now, one for each Yorkie?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2

The hardest part of Taylor Swift's life

Taylor Swift doesn't want your pity, OK? "Sometimes I really don't think it's that hard at all," she says of life on tour. "When I was starting out I'd go on tour for three months and I was gone for three months. Now almost 10 years in, thank God we get to play bigger shows so I don't have to play as many. If we're playing stadiums, I'll do two or three a week, not five shows a week, then I get to fly home in between. It's not that bad." Sure, but there must be something about her current world tour that's bringing her down, right? "I do have to leave the cats behind when I leave the country, which is the hardest part." You listening, Johnny Depp? We all have to make sacrifices.

2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Kevin Hart is oversharing, Judd Apatow is not letting go of the Cosby thing and Mindy Kaling is just being honest.

@KevinHart4real: #RallyWithKevin is about to become a movement!!!! I'm about to take this to another level. But I have to take my morning poop first....

@JuddApatow: Why are we not hearing from Cosby? Because his tour just ended and now he has to answer to Camille.

@mindykaling: I've changed since Cannes

3

Trouble in Affleck-Garner land?

Ben Affleck and wife Jennifer Garner haven't been seen in public together for more than a month, which wouldn't be that big of a deal for two working actors, except their last co-appearance came just after Affleck was spotted sans wedding ring — on Garner's birthday. Which is not a good look for a husband. Naturally, Radar Online smells blood in the water and is reporting that the two are "leading separate lives." Cue the dramatic music. "Ben is in the grips of a midlife crisis," a source told the National Enquirer earlier this month. "The bottom line is that Jen can't trust Ben. It's a vicious cycle. He'll screw up then he'll get it together, but then it's only a matter of time before he's back to bad behavior." Personally, I blame the ridiculously long "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" production schedule.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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TLC CANCELS THE DUGGARS' PHILLY APPEARANCE

Marc Summers has a lot on his plate. / SCOTT BRINEGAR, FOOD NETWORK

Television host/producer **Marc Summers** has plenty to be thankful for. Diagnosed with lymphocytic leukemia in 2010, Summers did two years of chemo, is in remission and "feels like a million bucks." That's good, because he's crazy busy executive producing "Restaurant Impossible" for the Food Network, an untitled shark special filmed in Cuba and airing on Discovery in July during Shark Week ("first time American and Cuban scientists partnered in 50 years"), and a sketch comedy show, "Six Degrees of Everything," for TRU starting Aug. 18.

Parx Casino knew Summers helped put Nickelodeon on the map with "Double Dare," so "they came with this idea of me hosting various games, live," says Summers about "The Parx Challenge Game Show" on May 30. A one-off (for now), "Challenge" features audience members, chosen by Summers, competing in still-secret games for cash and prizes. "I began my career with game shows," he says. "They're my life."

Dean Kitagawa's Philly-based PinkBox is North America's first sex toy vending machine. Designed for use in daring nightspots, Kitagawa hopes to interest club owners during PinkBox's launch party May 28 at Underground Arts.

One thing missing from the TLC Network Party at Penn's Landing on May 30 will be the **Duggars** of "19 Kids and Counting." With **Josh Duggar**'s child molestation scandal, the party goes on without them, but still features Kate Gosselin and the Cake Boss.

Also on May 30, down the block at Festival Pier, the Roots Picnic might have a component missing, too: the band's friends-and-family area backstage where pals and event stars mingle. **The Roots** made up for that by announcing their musical guests for the July 4 concert during a press conference at the African American Museum: **Miguel** and **Jennifer Nettles**.

Seen on the scene

- Former Pennsylvania State Sen. **Vince Fumo** was spotted along East Passyunk Avenue by the Singing Fountain.
- Eagles linebacker **Connor Barwin** and street artist SWOON were honored during last Thursday's Mural Arts Wall Ball at Electric Factory.
- Last Thursday, **Mayor Michael Nutter** hosted what's known around City Hall as his favorite event: the Centenarians Celebration luncheon for Philly's 100 year olds.

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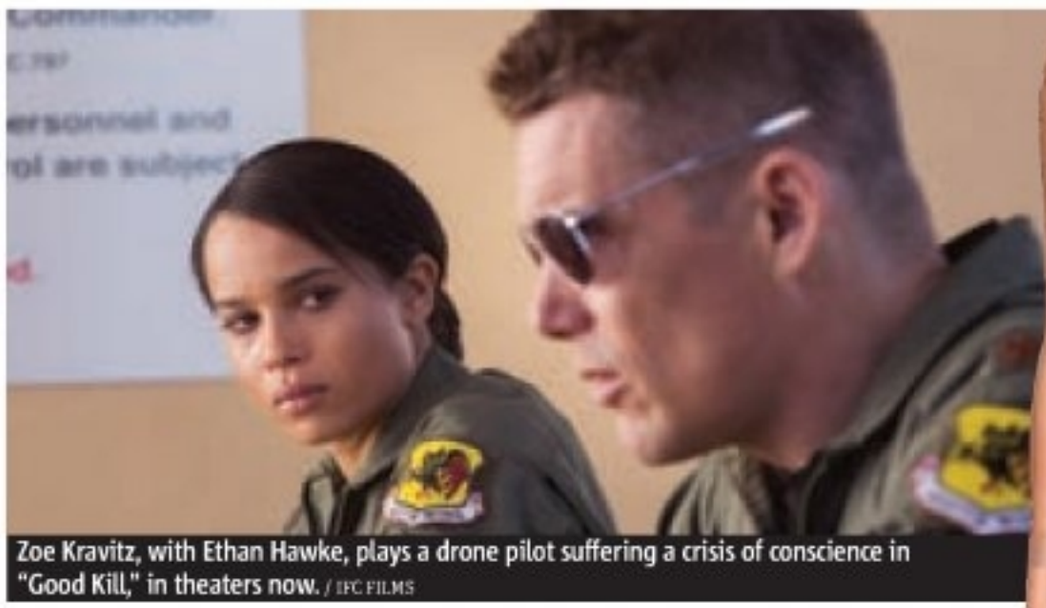
Zoe Kravitz: 'I like making art'



Zoe Kravitz, with Ethan Hawke, plays a drone pilot suffering a crisis of conscience in "Good Kill," in theaters now. / IFC FILMS

Interview. The actress-musician talks "Good Kill" and aging out of high school movies.

Zoe Kravitz's father is Lenny Kravitz, a musician, and her mother is Lisa Bonet, an actress. Their daughter does both. In between recording music with her band Lolawolf, she divides her acting between blockbusters ("Divergent") and smaller films, such as the new drama "Good Kill," in which she plays a drone pilot opposite Ethan Hawke.

You've said you don't like to talk politics. What drew you to this subject?
I'm very honest about it. I'm not claiming to be a politician; I'm not claiming to have the answers. Basically, I did this movie to open my eyes to how ignorant I am about the drone program. I had never taken the time to research it or knew much about it. That means there are other people who don't know about it, and that doesn't make them stupid either. I wanted to help get that information out there.

You seem to be finally, at 26, breaking out of high school roles.
I look very young. I get carded and I'll show a passport and people are still like, "Come on." It's a passport — what, do you think I'm Jason Bourne? I'm finally starting to look my own age, which is great because I am very tired of playing high school students.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

One more thing

Doing it all

You've jumped back and forth between movies and music. The idea of working in different art forms simultaneously still seems somehow like a new idea.
Maybe 10 years ago it was rare, but 50 years ago you had to be a triple threat to make it in this industry. You look at Gene Kelly or Judy Garland — you had to be able to sing, dance and act. You had to do all three. It's funny that people have been boxed now into doing just one. A performer is a performer. It's a spirit you have. I have a performer's spirit. I like to do all things performance. I like to dance, I like to sing, I like to act. I like to do it all. I think it makes so much more sense to do more than one.

So you don't worry much when hopping between music and movies?
My brain doesn't separate the two. I like making art.

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Getting into 'Between'

TV. 'Between' star Jennette McCurdy helps you prep for the first Netflix series you can't binge-watch.

MCCURDY CLEANS UP REAL NICE WHEN SHE'S NOT PLAYING TERRIFIED. JON KOPALOFF

Netflix is trying something different with "Between," the new series about a town quarantined after a virus kills off everyone 22 and older. Instead of letting viewers binge-watch the entire six-episode run, Netflix is doling out the installments once a week, like traditional TV. But don't worry, series star Jennette McCurdy is here to help you wrap your mind around that.

No binging, OK?

"I prepared all of my friends because when they found out I was doing a Netflix show they were like, 'I'm going to watch it so fast. Like I'm going to watch it faster than anyone!' And I was like, 'No, you're not,'" McCurdy says. "But I think this is a good way for the audience to stay invested and keep the conversation going. And there are only six episodes, so it's not like you're going to have to be like, 'Oh my God, this is a half-year commitment.' If there were more, then I could see how it might potentially build some frustration."

If you're a fan of ...

"It has sci-fi elements, it's a survivalist thriller, it has romantic elements — it's the kind of show that I enjoy watching," she says. "To me, it resembles a younger version of 'Lost,' which is my favorite dramatic show ever, so that was very exciting for me. I have tremendous respect for all of the actors on that show. I don't know how they endured it. I'm sure they deal with a lot of people giving them flak when they're just trying to get tomatoes at Ralph's or something."

It won't leave you hanging

"There are some unsolved mysteries to keep viewers curious

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and invested, but I do think that there are a lot of character arcs and a lot of resolution that can act as a satisfying pay-off so you feel like at the end of the first season, 'OK, some of my questions were answered,'" she assures viewers.

Who she plays

"My character is Wiley Day, and she's the pregnant daughter of a minister," McCurdy says. "She's really rebellious and rough around the edges, but ultimately she's very sensitive and highly insecure. She does not have the most nurturing of mother skills. She doesn't have any semblance of a maternal instinct, and she carries a lot of her own problems into motherhood."

New episodes of "Between" appear on Fridays. / KEN WORONER FOR NETFLIX

She's not your typical heroine

"Wiley is really real. She seemed, like, against the basic archetypes that we see where it's somebody who's very strong and knows exactly what she's doing — the girl who's got it all together and she's strong-willed and she's smart and she's got a great smile, too," McCurdy says. "And she wasn't the angsty, completely bogged-down, overemotional girl. I think she has a unique voice and something that is hopefully good for young people to see."

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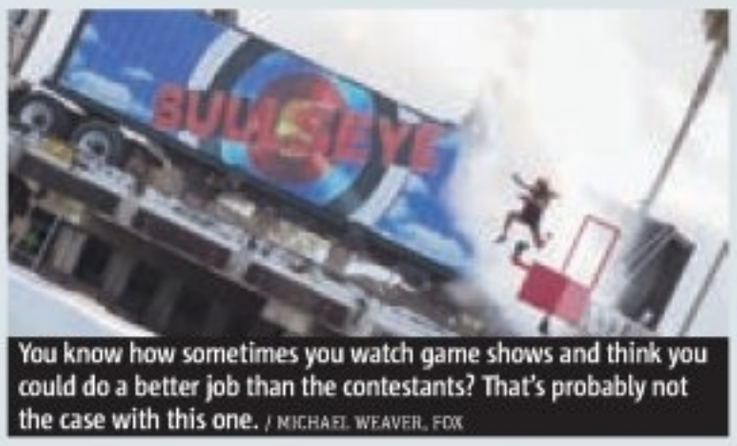
TV watch list

COMEDY

'Young and Hungry'

Gabi has a big decision to make, after she finds an exciting opportunity. The problem? It's located in Switzerland.

8 P.M., ABC FAMILY



You know how sometimes you watch game shows and think you could do a better job than the contestants? That's probably not the case with this one. / MICHAEL WEAVER, FOX

REALITY

'Bullseye'

This new game show involves contestants striving to hit the bullseye, but instead of flinging something else at it, it's their own bodies that have to hit the mark.

SERIES PREMIERE, 9 P.M., FOX

MOVIE

'Mean Girls'

Remember, on Wednesdays we wear pink. And on this particular Wednesday, watch the movie that imparted such wise advice to us. Just wear pink so you can still sit with us.

8:30 P.M., ABC FAMILY

TALK SHOWS

'Watch What Happens Live'

Andy chats with actor Dermot Mulroney, who we all know is a different person from Dylan McDermott. Wait, they are different people, aren't they? **11 P.M., BRAVO**

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Don't have a ton of light, but still crave greenery?

Muñoz says your best bet is a ZZ (pictured on the right of the mantel) or snake plant (on the side tables). "Snake plants are super versatile," says the expert. "They're actually all over tropical regions but you can also throw it in a closet and forget about it and it will still be alive months later."

Trailing plants work really well on a shelf. "It creates such a nice waterfall effect and you take advantage of the height of the shelves," says Muñoz. She used a pothos plant in this brownstone bathroom.

Another takeaway: Some plants — like humidity-loving ferns — work especially well in a bathroom.

Lush life

Expert styling tips for your plants.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Forget Scandinavian design — when it comes to décor, these days plants are all the rage. But you can't just go buy any ol' plant and plop it down in its flimsy plastic container and expect it to transform your place.

There's way more thought put into those gorgeous bohemian dens or chic minimalist lofts you stalk on Pinterest. The plants in those homes have probably been curated by an expert, which is why we hit up Brooklyn-based plant designer Lisa Muñoz of LeafandJune.com. The certified horticulturist and self-proclaimed "plant lady" shares some of her best styling tips.

Lisa Muñoz
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home

Don't let your lack of surface space stop you from peppering your home with houseplants.

Muñoz says some plants work well with bright light and heat and can be placed right on top of a radiator. In this room she used an aloe plant, a pencil cactus and a dracaena reflexa. The trick: "Any plant I put on a radiator, I put a little cork plate underneath," she says, adding, "in the winter you just want to check the soil a little more frequently to make sure it's not super dry."

"Corners are great for a splash of green." Muñoz recommends creating a grouping and experimenting with various heights of plants and planters. In this group, she used a birds nest fern ("which unlike a lot of ferns likes bright light") and a fiddle leaf fig. "It's a really nice statement piece," she says. Muñoz also placed a watermelon peperomia on a vintage stool. She loves scouring flea markets for old items to use as stands.

ALL PHOTOS ERICA GANNETT

Love where you live

Can't find decent flowers at your local bogeda?

Try philodendron leaves. "It's a nice way of adding an accent without having a potted plant or cut flowers that only last a few days," says Muñoz. She says these should last about 7-10 days.

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Horoscope

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Don't allow a minor disagreement to escalate. A reexamination of the events will reveal that you may have overreacted as well.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Put some distance between you and moody people. A good way to avoid complaints is to keep busy with your responsibilities.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
An unforeseen event will have a strong influence on your direction. Someone with something to offer will tempt you. Play it safe and take your time.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Major changes are coming. With preparation, you will outshine the competition and win the respect of your colleagues and superiors.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Recent emotional matters will bring you down. Disregard critical comments. Spend time with the people who love you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
It's time you put your talents to good use. Connect with creative individuals and develop a one-of-a-kind idea. Social events will turn out to be quite informative.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Be sure that you have all of the facts straight before you make a commitment. Things are looking up financially.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Join a group that shares your moral and ethical beliefs. A humanitarian or environmental cause is a great way to expand your friendships.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't allow a dose of nostalgia to ruin your day. There are many avenues to explore and lots of interesting people to meet.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Joint ventures look promising. Consult your financial adviser about ways to reduce debt. The knowledge will be most helpful.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Don't go public regarding your personal secrets. You need to do some soul-searching to discover how you really feel.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Romance is on the rise. Revitalize your self-esteem with a personal update or makeover. You will turn heads if you get out and socialize. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		5				2		6
9			1		6			
		6	7				1	
		9		8	5	1		
7			6		1			5
		8	9	7		6		
	7				3	4		
			2		8			3
6		1				5		

7		4				2		
				4	1	7	5	
1		9						8
	9				2	3		
3			4		5			2
		8	3				7	
5						1		4
	1	3	2	6				
		2				8		6

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

People are safer when they see cops as allies, not enemies

As someone who grew up in the '50s and '60s, I don't seem to remember this anti-cop culture that we are witnessing today. Most of us may not have loved the cops, but we knew they were needed to keep our communities safe and sound. Today the police have become the enemy and many with agendas out there pile it on as they hold marches with signs that read "Black Lives Matter" or "Hands Up, Don't Shoot." However, the recent shooting of a little 7-year-old boy riding his bike in Dorchester, Mass., becomes collateral damage on what have become killing fields. Where is the public outrage? Where are the outcries for ending the culture of violence that permeates communities of color? We can not tolerate such because to do so turns our communities into battlegrounds with innocents like a little boy riding his bike getting shot. Did you know that since Freddie Gray's death in police custody down in Baltimore, there have been 35 murders in that city, or that over the Memorial Day weekend 28 folks were shot and nine killed? Were there protests on the streets of Baltimore?

Our streets are safer when communities and the police see each other as allies in the fight for safe communities.

SGT. SAL GIARRATANI (RET.), DMHPD

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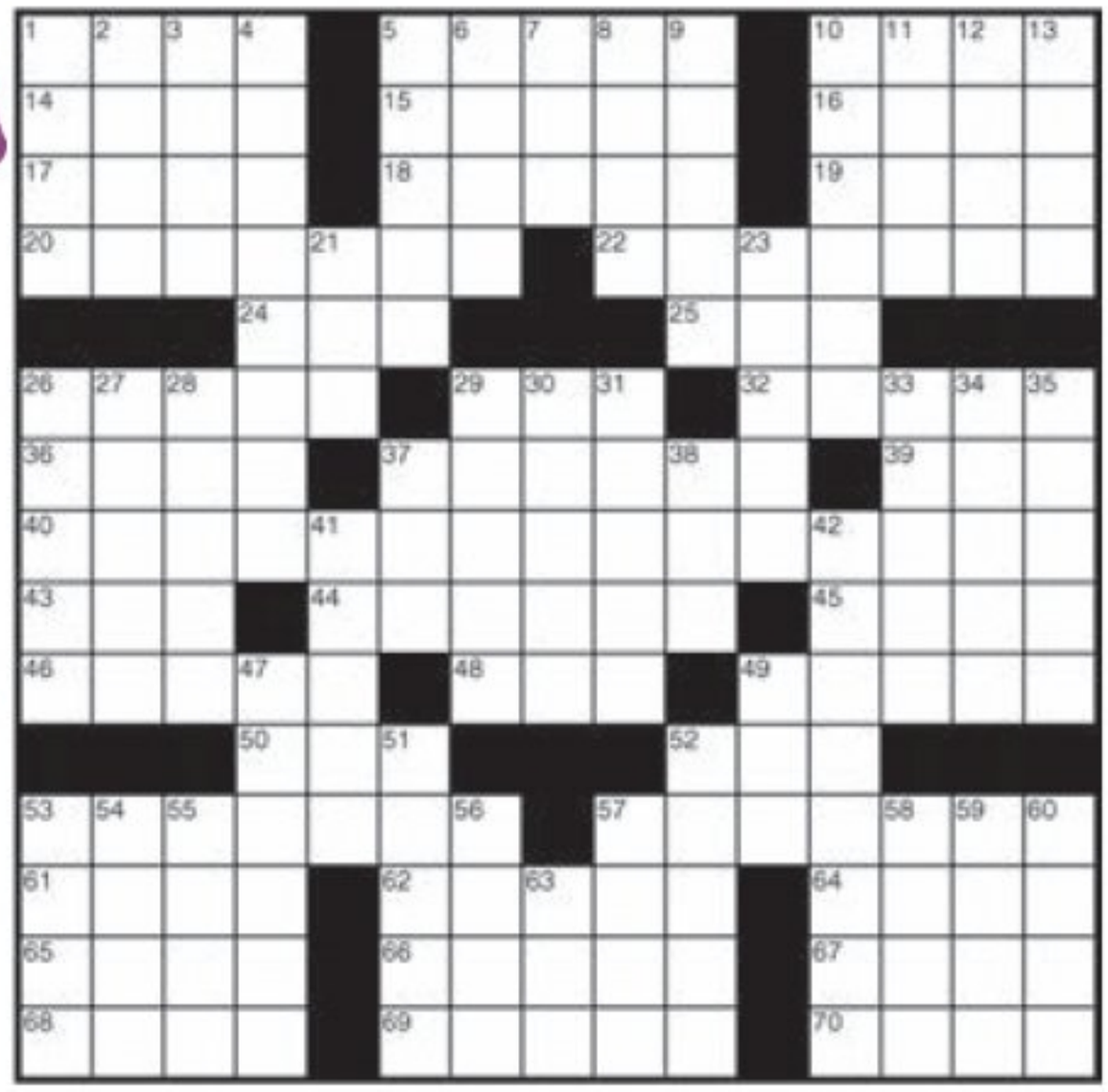
Crossword

Across
1 Tubular pasta
5 Period of time
10 Gibe at
14 Stratford's river
15 Fully conscious
16 Man Friday
17 Hiking trail
18 Where Kathmandu is
19 Small brown bird
20 Expressed disdain
22 Least spicy
24 Nonsense!
25 Poet's contraction
26 "Ghosts" author
29 Put 2 and 2 together
32 Competing for
36 Eclipse causer
37 Kudos
39 Forest grazer
40 Totally unforseen event (4 wds.)
43 Luau instr.
44 Distant
45 Camera's eye
46 Literary work
48 Your choice
49 Dah-dit man
50 Notch shape
52 Kangaroo pouch
53 Natural resource
57 Urban problem
61 Culture dish goo
62 Khartoum's land
64 Sultan's cousin
65 Gusto
66 Piano-key wood
67 Hindu royalty
68 Pitchers' stats
69 Release (2 wds.)
70 Ginger cookie

Down
1 Shocks somebody
2 John, in Siberia
3 Big handbag
4 Deep-seated
5 Impressionist painter
6 Felt grateful
7 Velvety surface
8 Ore hauler
9 Sun, in combos
10 Flamboyant
11 Fence material
12 Bad day for Caesar
13 Pavilion
21 Politician — Paul
23 River embankment
26 Infuse
27 Makes a reservation
28 Repairs a pump
29 Bakery lure
30 — Runyon
31 Simple tune
33 Goof-off
34 Parts of speech
35 Web-footed birds
37 Game opener
38 Lauper's "— Bop"
41 Young chicken
42 Tight ends, often
47 Prevents
49 Damage superficially
51 Three-legged stand
52 Sony rival
53 Labyrinth
54 Disney CEO Bob —
55 LEM lander
56 Garage job
57 Hungry feeling
58 "— — Old Cowhand"
59 Ms. Foch
60 Film crew member
63 Speckle

Yesterday's answer



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Howard returns to All-Star form

MLB. Will Ryan Howard make this year's All-Star team before a likely trade away from Philly?

Phillies fans are witnessing something they have not seen since 2009. They are seeing a red-hot Ryan Howard. The Big Piece is having his best start to a season in five years.

After emerging as the top power-hitter in the game, resulting in a rookie of the year award and a 2006 MVP trophy, Howard tore his Achilles tendon on the final pitch of game seven of the NLDS against the Cardinals back in 2011.

Year after year fans watched as Howard could not return to form. The power numbers shrunk, as did games played. Howard did not put together a full season again until 2014. His strikeouts rose dramatically and his defense suffered as well.

This season, the slugger is showing he may just have some baseball left to play. After a very sluggish start consisting of an April where he hit .194 and didn't connect for his first dinger until 14 games into the season, Howard is being more aggressive.

Swinging at first pitches and working counts has led to respectable numbers such as .270/.313/.546 with 10 homers and 24 RBI (as of Tuesday afternoon).

At 35 years old, Howard will never return to his prime form. His recent renaissance, however, may open the eyes of All-Star voters.

If Howard continues this surge, he could hit his way out of Philadelphia. Many believe he is auditioning his hot bat and is increasing his trade value, especially for DH-hungry American League teams.

"I don't really want to talk about the interest, but I will tell you that Ryan playing well really helps us," Phillies GM Ruben Amaro told CSN-Philly.com.

Howard has surprised many, and could potentially join current teammates Freddy Galvis or Jonathon Papelbon in Cincinnati at the midseason classic.

The resurging season for Howard is giving the slugger a boost of confidence, one that may be beneficial for the rebuild that is in the beginning stages for the Phillies.

It would be special for some to see the Big Piece representing the Phils and the National League one more time. To others, it may be more special to see Darin Ruf become the everyday starter beginning in August, after the trade deadline.

JEFF SMYTH
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By the numbers

34

If he maintains his current pace, Ryan Howard would reach 34 home runs and 81 RBI this season.

Over the past week, Howard is batting a ridiculous .360. / GETTY IMAGES

3 SPORTS

In hot water

Amaro clarifies remarks

A day after saying that Phillies fans "bitch and complain" because they don't think the team has a rebuilding plan, Phils' GM Ruben Amaro Jr. tried to clear the air prior to the Phillies game in New York Tuesday. "I probably used my words incorrectly or poorly," Amaro said. "I want to apologize for that."

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MLB Power Rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1

Cardinals (29-16)

St. Louis continues to have the best record in the game and the best run differential at plus-56. Young righty Michael Wacha is off to a hot start to the season, posting seven wins, tied for first in the NL.

No. 2

Astros (29-17)

The AL West is having a tough start to the season, and the Astros have taken full advantage, opening a 5.5 game lead. They are the only team in the division with a positive run differential.

No. 3

Royals (28-16)

Known for their pitching, the Royals' offense is actually what is leading the way so far. As a team, Kansas City is averaging 4.82 runs per game and Kendrys Morales is leading the AL with 37 RBI.

No. 4

Nationals (27-18)

Washington has won eight of its last 10 and now leads the NL East. Bryce Harper has put on an offensive clinic this season, as he's hit 16 home runs and has driven in 41, first and second in the NL.

No. 5

Dodgers (27-17)

The Dodgers are 20-6 at home, but 7-11 on the road, as they lead the NL West by two. Adrian Gonzalez's .344 average is second in the NL, while Zack Greinke's 1.48 ERA is also second in the NL.

No. 6

Twins (26-18)

The Twins are one of the hottest teams in the game, as they have won three straight and seven of their last 10 games to jump to second in the AL Central. Closer Glen Perkins already has 16 saves.

No. 7

Giants (26-20)

San Francisco is one of the hottest teams in the NL as it has won eight of 10 games and now trails the Dodgers by just two games in the NL West. Brandon Crawford has been a catalyst (2.5 WAR).

No. 8

Tigers (26-20)

While the Tigers' pitching isn't what it once was, Miguel Cabrera once again is one of the best hitters in the game, as his .344 average is second in the AL and his 11 homers place him fourth.

No. 9

Mets (25-21)

The Mets lost their division lead, as the Nationals have overtaken them for the top spot in the NL East. Their 7-15 mark on the road has held the team back through 44 games.

No. 10

Cubs (24-20)

Chicago has lost two straight and is 4.5 games behind the Cardinals for first in the NL Central. Fortunately for the Cubs, it seems like Jon Lester is back pitching like the ace he was supposed to be.

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Eagles OTAs

Mathis a no-show at this week's OTAs

Will Mathis be a holdout this summer? / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles organized team activities are underway in South Philly, and although their attendance is not mandatory for Birds players, usually close to 100 percent of the team shows up in late May to begin the offseason schedule for veterans.

Not surprisingly, Pro Bowl guard Evan Mathis was a no-show at the event, after skipping the first group of team workouts a few weeks ago.

Mathis and his agent Drew Rosenhaus have vocally asked for a new contract or a trade, but neither has solidified for the 33-year-old.

He is due to make $5.1 million in the upcoming season, and is expected to report to the first mandatory team mini camp June 16-18. EVAN MACY

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Phillies' future: How are the team's top prospects faring?

MLB. The Phillies are getting some very impressive performances from many top prospects.

The Phillies had a brush with solid baseball last week, piecing together seven of eight games and even the first six-game winning streak in years. During that stretch, there is a clear pivot to the future visible on the diamond for the guys in red pinstripes.

Though contributions from veterans Cole Hamels, Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz are clearly important as the team attempts to climb out of the NL East's gutter, it is the young guns who are having all the fun.

Maikel Franco looks like he's not only in the Big Leagues to stay, but also in the middle of the Phillies' lineup. Freddy Galvis is in the top five in hitting in the NL, while Odubel Herrera is climbing out of a slump to be a big piece again.

Some of the future is on the field right now, but what about the other half?

Aaron Nola, SP, Reading
It's only a matter of time before Nola ascends to the Phillies roster. After a lights-out performance last Wednesday (seven shutout innings), last year's first-round pick had a bad outing Monday. But that's a relative term, as a bad outing for Nola is three earned runs in a five-inning outing. This performance brought his impressive ERA up a tick to 1.87 in nine starts.

In Reading, Nola has struck out 43 and walked just seven. / GETTY IMAGES

"I feel like certain pitches have gotten better, certain parts of my game have gotten better," Nola told reporters last week. "It's a different kind of game than college. College is a lot faster. You've still got to execute your pitches, set up hitters the same."

J.P Crawford, SS, Clearwater
The Phillies' No. 1 prospect is tearing things up in Florida, batting .375 with a .474 on-base percentage in 17 games since returning from injury. The 20-year-old former first-round pick has some work to do before he makes the big league, but expect him to finish the year in Double-A, with a target to reach the Phillies by 2016.

Roman Quinn, CF, Reading
Quinn may be blocked, for the time being, by all the outfield depth the Phillies boast currently but he is certainly making a case that he is due for a promotion in Double-A. The speedster, just 22 years old, has 20 stolen bases and is batting .309, third only to Brodie Greene and Brock Stassi.

Ben Lively and Zach Eflin, SP, Reading
The two pitching prospects that came to the team this offseason via trade appear to be doing pretty well in Double-A as well. Lively, who came from the Reds in the Marlon Byrd deal, has gone 4-1 in eight starts with a 3.47 ERA. Eflin, whose 4-3 record in the same number of starts is less impressive, has a miniscule 2.28 ERA, though he is not as big a strikeout hurler as Lively. Eflin has just 23 punchouts to Lively's 38. Eflin, of course, came to the Phillies by way of the Dodgers in the Jimmy Rollins trade.

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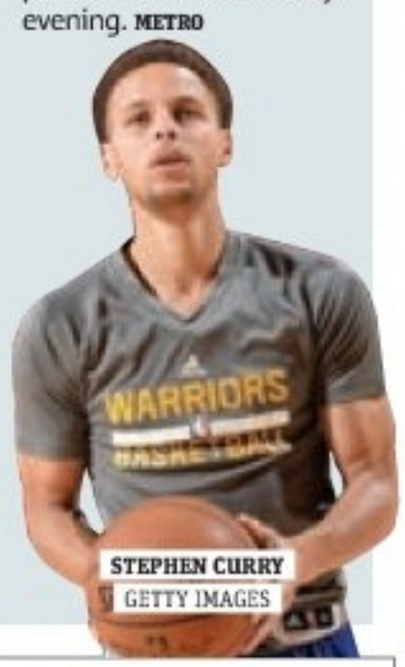
Game 5 tonight

The Warriors look to close out series at home

The Los Angeles Clippers haven't been to the NBA Finals in 40 years. That could all change Wednesday night, as the NBA's top regular season team looks to take its 3-1 series lead over the Houston Rockets to the bank.

"We just don't want to come back to Houston," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "It's not going to be easy. They are here for a reason. We have to come and play with more intensity and play together and we'll win the game."

Things start off at 9 p.m. on ESPN Wednesday evening. METRO


STEPHEN CURRY
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Ethan White, Maurice Edu and Andrew Wenger have all been important pieces to the Union thus far in 2015. / GETTY IMAGES

Union, lifted by Sapong's return, just one point out

MLS. The Union are finally starting to play solid soccer, fresh off of two straight wins.

Quoted

"It doesn't get any easier. Our league is what it is. Anybody can beat anybody on any given day. We'll be in for another fight next weekend in D.C."

Union manager Jim Curtin on league parity.

Amid anger and frustration from the Union fan base, the team has quietly strung together two straight wins, which has pushed them into seventh place in the Eastern Conference standings.

The Union (3-7-3) topped the New York Red Bulls (4-2-5) 2-0 on the road Sunday for the clubs first-ever win at Red Bull Arena, a feat that took seven tries. Union manager Jim Curtin was happy with the result and, despite turmoil surrounding the organization, the team sits just one point out of a playoff spot in the East.

"It's a funny league and a funny conference," Curtin said. "I talked all week to my guys about how our season can go one of two ways in this building tonight. 'We're either one win behind the [Red Bulls] or we're really getting separated and left in the dust.' I think our guys took that to heart and put in a great effort."

The team was extremely happy with forward C.J. Sapong's return to the lineup Sunday. Sapong returned to the team last Thursday after completing a league-mandated Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health assessment, stemming from a DUI arrest on May 1. He returned to the pitch in the 54th minute Sunday as a substitute and scored the team's second goal in the 62nd minute to seal the victory.

"Coming on the field, it almost felt like my first game," Sapong said. "I was starving and hungry to provide for the team, but I also wanted to prove that I do love this sport, I do love playing and from now on I'll carry all my activities on and off the field in that regard."

The Union are 2-3-2 in the matches that Sapong has played in this season. They're just 1-4-1 as a team without him. His physical style of play opens up opportunities on offense for the Union and Curtin knows how much of an impact he can make for the team.

"For a guy that's been away from the team for three weeks to come in and train for three or four days and then give us a performance like that is big," Curtin said. "You go around and shaking the hands [of the Red Bulls] and [Karl] Ouimette has a bloody nose, the other guy's limping off. [Sapong] is a pain in the butt to play against. He's a physical presence and you hate getting into battles with him because he has a way of coming out on top."

The Union will face the top seed in the East, D.C. United (6-2-4), on the road Saturday. Two weeks ago, they beat them 1-0 at home, which initiated the team's momentum.

Union defender Ethan White feels like the team has learned from past mistakes and has grown over the past few months. They're trying to keep the right foot forward and to keep climbing in the standings.

"You make your own luck," White said. "We're working our tails off and finally the ball bounces our way. … We understand both sides of this game now, what everyone feels like, and we prefer this side. We're going to do everything we can to keep this going in the right direction.

Saturday's match against D.C. will air at 7 p.m. on The Comcast Network.

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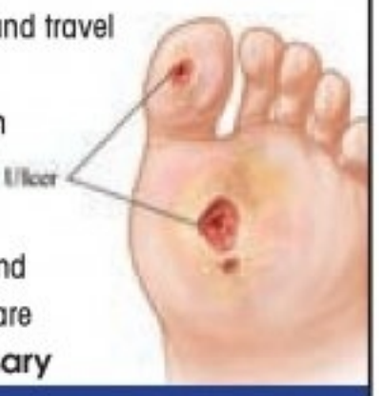

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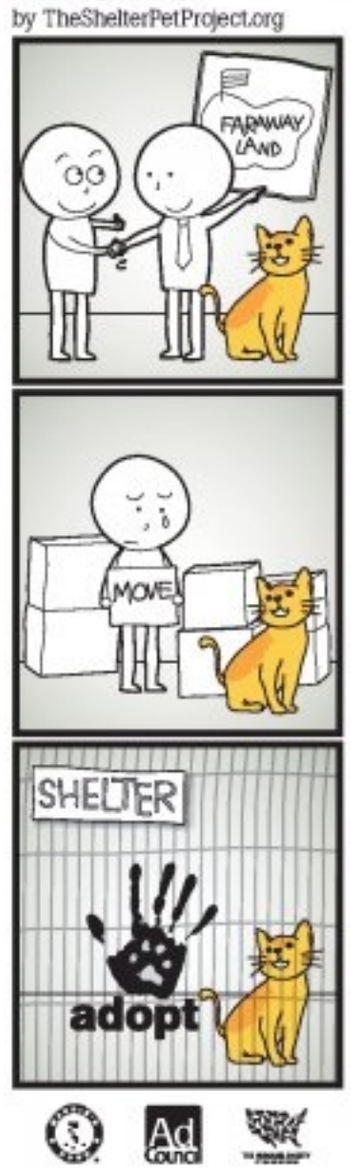

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